

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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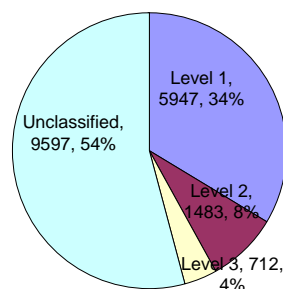
WSP and Partners Working to Improve the Washington State Sex and Kidnapping Offender Registry

The WSP Identification and Criminal History Section, Sex Offender Registry Unit has partnered with local law enforcement agencies around Washington to improve sex and kidnapping offender reporting within the state. Several important strides have been made recently to ensure offenders follow registry requirements.

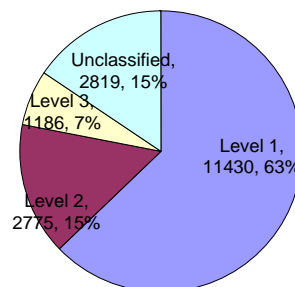
In early 2004, the Washington Association of Sheriff's and Police Chief's (WASPC) Sex Offender Registration Web site became operational. This Web site is available to the public and contains all Washington state risk level II & III sex offenders; level I and unclassified registrant information is not included. For efficiency in reporting and maintaining this information, the WSP electronically provides the central registry of sex and kidnapping offenders to WASPC. This data is refreshed frequently to ensure accuracy between the systems.

WSP and the local sheriff's offices have worked closely together to ensure unclassified registrants are classified. As you can see below, at the end of September 2003 there were 9,597 unclassified offenders. Working together the number of unclassified offenders was reduced to 2,819 by July 2004.

Registered Sex Offenders - September 2003



Registered Sex Offenders - July 2004



(More)

One of the most recent changes to the WSP's sex and kidnapping offender registry occurred in early May 2004 when it became possible for sheriffs' offices to enter Sex Offender Registry address changes electronically through the law enforcement telecommunication system rather than submitting a paper change of address notification, thereby, making address information real time.

Each quarter there are new addresses discovered, which the offenders may have failed to notify their local sheriff's office of. Since it is a violation to move without notifying the local sheriff, this information is sometimes used to re-incarcerate sex offenders. Approximately 2% of the addresses have been found to be different from the SOR data base. While this may not seem like a lot, it is over 360 offenders each quarter.

Another significant change was made within the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC) database, in a sub file called the Corrections Client File (CCF). SOR Coordinators have the ability to enter high risk offenders into this file with a notation to contact the Coordinator when the offender has contact with law enforcement. Therefore, when law enforcement has contact with an individual and runs a check for wants and warrants, the CCF is also checked and any possible matches are returned to the SOR Coordinator. Making this function available to SOR Coordinators across the state provides one more tool that can be used in tracking and monitoring registered sex offenders.

Additionally, annual training is provided to local SOR Coordinators to continue to facilitate the exchange of information between the sheriffs' offices, WSP, WASPC, and the DOC. These training classes provide an opportunity to present new information and/or requirements; brainstorm ways to improve the data flow and how we can continue to support each other in our effort to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of the State of Washington.

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